

# The humble Petition of the poor

distressed Prisoners in the head Prison  
of all about *London* and *Middlesex*,  
the common Gaol of *Newgate*,

Being two hundred fourscore and odde persons,  
both Men and Women, whereof many are  
distressed Debtors;

Against this time of the Birth of our Blessed  
Lord and Saviour *Jesus Christ*.



*Blessed is he that considereth the poor and needy:  
the Lord shall deliver him in the needfull  
time of trouble, and his seed shall be blessed  
upon earth. Psal. 41.*

**M**ost humbly sheweth to your Christian and mercifull Charity the lamentable estate of the poor Prisoners in the common Gaol *Newgate*, being two hundred fourscore and odd persons, afflicted with hunger, nakedness, and other discomforts, so that it is impossible for any to conceive their miseries, but onely those that feel them; who being accounted people of the worst condition, are little pitied: yet many are committed for Debt and other small offences, who notwithstanding suffer one misery in want with the greatest offenders; and those that deserve death, after long sorrow, suffer Execution with publick shame: yet while they live in this miserable world, most humbly (even upon their bare knees) beseech your charitable benevolence against this time of the Birth of our Blessed Lord and Saviour *Jesus Christ*. Many beg now that shall never beg more, all ask in the Name of *Jesus*. Your reward shall be, *Come ye blessed, ye visited me sick and in prison*: For as they were not the worst in *Israel* on whom the wall of *Silo* fell, so are they not the worst in *England* on whom affliction is fallen. Doe as God shall move your hearts, and look for his reward; and so blessed be his Name for all our good Benefactors.

May it please you to put your Charity into this Bearer's Box, sealed with the House Seal, as it is figured upon this Petition.

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